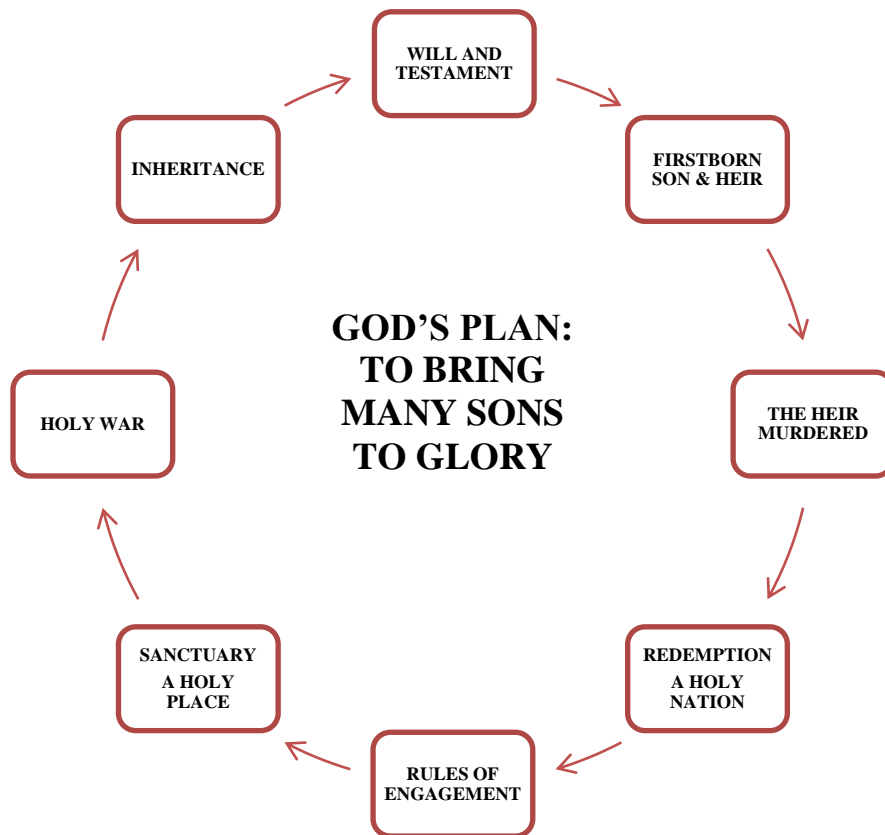


# A History of the Future

How the Bible fits together  
Week 2

## CYCLE 2: FROM ABEL TO BABEL

Recap and Introduction



### DIVINE PROMISE

*The Gospel*

READ Gen 3:15.

The serpent (Satan) is cursed. Humiliation...

Eve's offspring will crush the serpent's head.

Satan will strike his heel (ie wound the woman's seed).

Cf the woman and the dragon in Rev 12.

A prototype gospel!



GENESIS



### THE FIRSTBORN

*Genesis 4*

Eve gives birth to 2 sons: Cain (the firstborn of Adam) and Abel.

Can these two *sons* of Adam please God where Adam failed?

Cain sacrifices some of his *crops* to God, the fruit of the soil.

Abel by contrast sacrifices a *lamb*, the firstborn of his flock.

Abel is considered *righteous* by God. Why?



# *A History of the Future*

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1. An animal substitute is the price of redemption
2. Animal sacrifice is more akin to human self-sacrifice.

## **The favoured son is pierced**

Cain murders Cain.



Why? He's angry because he cannot do the right thing (cf. 1 John 3:12).  
Sin is controlling him.

The firstborn sells his birthright and privileged status.

The firstborn status passes to the younger brother (God's beloved son, a metaphorical 'firstborn').

Cf Esau and Jacob in Gen 27:27-29

The death of the younger son becomes foundational to the storyline.

Abel's blood is significant. What did it achieve?

Gen 4:10-11

*Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground...with opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.*

The earth needs saving too! From the curse. The creation itself waits for its liberation (Rom 8).

The Hebrew word for man (*adam*) comes from *adamah* the word for 'ground'.

Two principles:

1. Even if the 'righteous one' is killed, his line continues.
2. The one who *offers* the righteous sacrifice must also *be* the righteous sacrifice.

Gen 4:10-12

Two lines:

Unrighteous: Cain is cursed by God and banished (further east) as an aimless wanderer in Nod.

Righteous: Abel is replaced by Seth in the 'royal line' (cf. Luke 3). Seth becomes the royal heir.

*Population Growth*

Gen 5:1-11

The number of descendents of Adam to Noah and include his sons = 12

Gen 10: The 'Table of Nations' = 70.



## **REDEMPTION and the birth of God's people**

The flood = 'baptism'



Noah is saved through the waters, and in him a new humanity is born.

Gen 6:1-7

God will wipe out the all people *and the earth*.

# *A History of the Future*

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Adam's sin has environmental consequences.

The earth is getting baptized: a total immersion.

Instructions to build the Ark.

*A floating sanctuary*



3 decks: same width-to-height ratio (3:5).

Greek term *kibotos* (the ark and the ark of the covenant): God's law is located.

Like Moses, Noah did everything just as the LORD had commanded (6:22; 7:5, 9, 16).

During the flood, the Ark is 'dry ground'

They entered the ark... 'Then the LORD shut him in.'



*40 days*

The rain fell on the earth for 40 days and forty nights.

Every living thing perished.

The ark crosses the sea. It is lifted high above the earth.

Salvation out of judgement.

*Dry Ground*

Noah sends spies to get news of the land...

*a raven*

*a dove*: an olive branch - they have reached *dry ground*, a place of rest and peace.

The pattern of final judgement: cataclysmic and sudden.

*Entry into land*

"Then God said to Noah, 'Come out of the ark'"



So they enter the new land, a new earth.

*Genesis 9*

## **A New Earth**

A new beginning!

*Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.* Like Gen 1:26-28

A new Adam. A chance to get things right.

## **A New Menu**

A vegetarian diet in Eden.

A carnivore diet in the new earth.

# *A History of the Future*

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## **A New Law**

A legal system. Murderers will be punished.



Social accountability

To restrain evil: to mitigate violence and greed.

## **A New Covenant**

An unconditional covenant of preservation: Never again will God flood the world.

A stable environment for mankind.

A level of ecological stability.

Common Grace allowing mankind to make progress and prosper and grow.

He *delays* judgement, and gives people time to repent.

## **HOLY WAR**

*Gen 9:20*

Noah described as a man of the soil (*adamah*). Just like Adam.

Like Adam he plants a vineyard, a garden.

Like Adam he must cultivate and look after it.



Like Adam he must wage 'holy war'.

Noah gets drunk. Found naked in his tent.



Shem and Japheth cover his nakedness with a garment.

*Ham* (here called 'Canaan') cursed. Ham = father of Arabians, Canaanites, Africans (inc Egyptians).

*Shem* blessed (whose descendants are the Semitic people ie Jews)

*Japheth* blessed (whose descendants are the Indo-Europeans) who will live in the tents of Shem.

## **INHERITANCE**

*Genesis 11*

One language and common speech.

Moved east and settled in Shinar (Babylonia).

Plan: to build a city and a tower 'to reach the heavens'

*... so that we may make a name for ourselves.*



The LORD confuses their languages

The LORD scatters them over the face of the whole earth.

Another 'exile'

